

sponsored by the Alliance For Representative Democracy and co-hosted by the four leaders of the U.S. Congress.

The conference established State delegations that returned to their States to advocate for better civic education. I would like to recognize Cindy Coker and Paul Horne, the facilitators of the South Carolina action team, for their efforts to improve civic education in South Carolina in the tradition of Sara Bookhart at the High School of Charleston in 1964.

The South Carolina action team activities include advocating civic education programs and curricula, hosting a conference on the civic mission of schools, participating in the review of social studies standards, which includes civic education, and providing input on the value of civic education on the State's school report card.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all of the participants of the Congressional Conference on Civic Education and wishing them further success during their next conference in December.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

#### REPORTS DISCOVERED ON IRAQ

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today the New York Times uncovered two classified reports prepared for President Bush in the months leading up to the war in Iraq. These documents warned the President that "an American-led invasion of Iraq would result in a deeply divided Iraqi society prone to violent internal conflict." Officials told the Times that a second report warns of a possible insurgency, saying the rogue elements from Saddam Hussein's government could work with existing terrorist groups or act independently to wage guerrilla warfare.

Sounds exactly like the situation our U.S. troops face today in Iraq. Unfortunately, President Bush and his administration did not listen to these warnings. Vice President CHENEY said we would be greeted with flowers, and President Bush egged insurgents on by telling them to "bring it on."

Today's report is just another example of the President's failed policies in Iraq. He had a flawed rationale for going to war. He did not have a plan to win the peace. He failed to implement his reconstruction plans for Iraq, leaving the country in chaos. And now we learn that he ignored intelligence estimates that warned of problems after the fall of Baghdad. The world cannot afford another 4 years of this failed leadership.

#### POLL FINDS MEDIA BIAS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week no single media organization will receive the media bias award. However, the public has made clear its views of the media as an institution. The American people feel standards of journalism have eroded. Advocacy has replaced objectivity.

After conducting an opinion poll, the Gallup organization recently found that fewer than half of Americans have confidence in the media's ability to fairly report the news. And an astounding three times as many people believe the media is more liberal than conservative. To quote Gallup, "Media Credibility Reaches Lowest Point in Three Decades."

Mr. Speaker, what we should expect from the media, as both Americans and consumers of news, are the facts, objectively and fairly reported.

#### HEALTH CARE COSTS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, in the last 4 years the Republican majority of this House and the Bush administration have failed to address the skyrocketing cost of health care. Today's news shows this problem has rapidly deteriorated into a crisis.

Let me quote The Washington Post: "Higher Costs, Less Care. Nationwide, workers' cost for health insurance has risen by 36 percent since 2000, dwarfing the average 12.4 percent increase in their wages since President Bush took office."

In a study by Families USA, they found the cost of health care increased three times what the average household's earnings have increased since the year 2000; 14.3 million Americans are now spending more than a quarter of their income on medical costs, an increase of 2.7 million people. There are 5 million fewer jobs providing health benefits, and small businesses are seeing the sharpest decline. This is a problem that affects every middle-class family in the Nation.

Today, we have cancer patients who determine for themselves whether their chances of survival are good enough to invest in the more effective and expensive treatments because they do not want to burden their family with costs.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of a health care crisis. This administration and this Republican majority have nothing to say about it and have thwarted efforts to bring down those costs.

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#### FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN THE PULPIT

(Mr. PEARCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I attended the dedication of a new sanctuary service at Church on the Move in Roswell, New Mexico. As I sat there watching the efforts of Pastor Troy Smotherman come to a culmination of just building his congregation and extending it, I thought of the labors of all pastors across the country, like Dr. Dean Mathis whom my wife and I have studied with for over 20 years, and realize that the work of these good and decent individuals to exhort their members toward justice, kindness, peace, faith, love and just quiet living of decent lives is indeed a tribute to this Nation.

It is entirely appropriate that, at this point where we are going to discuss the Federal marriage amendment on the floor of the House in front of the people, that we recognize that these quiet ministers building congregations across the country do not have the right or the freedom to speak from their pulpits about this very important subject.

Mr. Speaker, I would recommend and request that the House and the Senate consider the language that stifles conversation from the pulpits of this Nation.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, September 28, 2004.  
Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 28, 2004 at 9:37 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 161.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, *Clerk of the House.*

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of December 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. THORNBERRY, Texas.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

RECORD votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

#### REVISING AND EXTENDING BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2363) to revise and extend the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2363

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA.

Section 401 of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 13751 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by striking “1,200” and inserting “1,500”;

(B) by striking “4,000” and inserting “5,000”; and

(C) by striking “December 31, 2005” and inserting “December 31, 2010”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006” and inserting “2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “1,200” and inserting “1,500”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “4,000” and inserting “5,000”; and

(II) by striking “2007” and inserting “2010”; and

(3) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(A) \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

“(B) \$85,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

“(C) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

“(D) \$95,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

“(E) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2363 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to vote for S. 2363, a bill to revise and extend the authorization of appropriations for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Both the Senate Committee on the Judiciary

and the full Senate passed this bill without amendment by unanimous consent. Following Senate action, the bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary where the bill was reported favorably by voice vote without amendment.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America had its first beginnings almost 150 years ago. The first club was organized in 1860 by a group of women who believed disadvantaged boys should have access to a positive, structured environment outside of school. By 1906, several boys clubs had joined together and formed the Federated Boys Club in Boston. In 1956, the Boys Clubs of America received a congressional charter and celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Recognizing that girls are also a vital part of the Clubs' membership, the name was changed to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America in 1990.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America continue to provide a positive learning environment for children throughout this country. The Clubs have numerous nationally recognized programs that address issues pertinent to today's youth. More than 25 programs are available to youngsters on topics including education, leadership development, the arts and substance-abuse prevention. Of the several million children that benefit from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, a large majority live in our inner cities and urban areas. These programs are essential to providing resources and nourishing skills necessary for young people to become successful, productive adults.

The Economic Espionage Act of 1996 established a program to provide Department of Justice grant support for starting new Boys and Girls Clubs in distressed areas. The current version of the law calls for the establishment of 1,200 new clubs by the end of 2005. S. 2363 will increase that number by 300 to a total of 1,500. Current law also calls for a goal of 4,000 total clubs by January 1, 2007. S. 2363 increases that goal to at least 5,000 such facilities in operation by January 1, 2010.

Additionally, the bill extends through fiscal year 2010 the authority of the director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the Department of Justice to make grants to the organization to establish such facilities. It authorizes appropriations of \$80 million for fiscal year 2006 and increasing each year by increments of \$5 million, reaching \$100 million in fiscal year 2010.

In an effort to further the positive mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 2363, legislation extending the authorization for annual grants from the Department of Justice to the Boys and Girls Club of America. This legislation authorizes the Boys

and Girls Club of America to receive funds through 2010 at \$80 million for fiscal year 2006, \$85 million for 2007, \$90 million for 2008, \$95 million for 2009, culminating in \$100 million for fiscal year 2010. It also authorizes an increase in the number of clubs in existence to 5,000 by 2010 which will increase the number of children served to over 5 million.

Founded in 1860, the Boys and Girls Club of America has been in existence for over 100 years and provides young people with a positive alternative to drugs, gangs and crime. At clubs across America and throughout the world at our military bases, youth ages 6 to 18 find a positive adult influence and a safe environment in which to learn and grow. There are currently 3,500 clubs that serve 3.6 million children.

It is with firsthand knowledge that many of us can attest to the success and opportunity provided to the youth that participate in the Boys and Girls Club programs. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Burbank, Pasadena and West San Gabriel Valley serve children in my district, and I have had the opportunity to visit and see firsthand the great work of this organization. In fact, many of the young people at this fine Boys and Girls Club organization in my district provided cards and letters and posters which I recently had the chance to deliver, along with my colleague from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO), to our troops serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

I have seen in the computer training in the Burbank facility, the recreational activities, the arts and crafts, what a tremendous environment the Boys and Girls Club can provide for young people. The Boys and Girls Club dinner in Burbank every year is one of the best attended in the city. The last time I visited the Boys and Girls Club in Burbank, I got a very superb lesson in foosball from some very talented 6-, 7- and 8-year-olds.

S. 2363 is necessary to continue the much-needed mission of the Club, and we know all too well the consequences of not providing such preparation. While it costs taxpayers \$25,000 to \$75,000 per year to keep one young person in jail, it costs just \$200 per year to provide Boys and Girls Club programming for one youth.

I want to compliment my chairman and my colleagues for their sponsorship of this legislation and urge my colleagues to support this worthwhile endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I am not here to argue about the value of the Boys and Girls Clubs. In fact, they do very good work in my home State of Arizona, a lot of good work.